In the Claims:

✓

Cancel Claims 1-7 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained

therein.

✓

Add new Claims 8-13 as follows:

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8.   (New) A multi-use assay system for use with a removable test strip having a

test pad, the multi-use assay system comprising:

an electronics printed circuit board having an alignment fixturing;

an optics system for alignment with the removable test strip, the optics system

comprising a lens, an emitter and a detector, wherein the emitter and detector are mounted

in the electronics printed circuit board relative to the alignment fixturing;

a housing for containing the optics system and holding the removable test strip in

position relative to the optics system;

an optics block holder mounted in the electronics printed circuit board in alignment

with the alignment fixturing, the optics block holder aligning the test strip to the test pad

and positioning the optics system to focus light from the light emitter and to the detector;

and

a processor in communication with the detector, the processor controlling the assay

system in accordance with calibration information uniquely specific to a reagent associated

with a set of one or more test strips.

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cont.

9.   (New) The system of Claim 8, further comprising a removable calibration chip, the calibration information being provided by the removable calibration chip.

10.   (New) A multi-use assay system for use with a removable test strip having a test pad, the multi-use assay system comprising:

an electronics printed circuit board having an alignment fixturing;

an optics system for alignment with the removable test strip, the optics system comprising a lens, an emitter and a detector, wherein the emitter and detector are mounted in the electronics printed circuit board relative to the alignment fixturing;

a housing for containing the optics system and holding the removable test strip in position relative to the optics system;

an optics block holder mounted in the electronics printed circuit board in alignment with the alignment fixturing, the optics block holder aligning the test strip to the test pad and positioning the optics system to focus light from the light emitter and to the detector; and

a processor in communication with the light detector, the processor controlling the assay system such that a predetermined number of test strips are assayed based on signals from the light detector, wherein the predetermined number corresponds to the number of test strips of a set of one or more test strips.

11.   (New) The system of Claim 10, further comprising a removable calibration chip, the predetermined number being provided by the removable calibration chip.

12.   (New) A multi-use assay system for use with a removable test strip having a test pad, the multi-use assay system comprising:

an electronics printed circuit board having an alignment fixturing;

an optics system for alignment with the removable test strip, the optics system comprising a lens, an emitter and a detector, wherein the emitter and detector are mounted in the electronics printed circuit board relative to the alignment fixturing;

a housing for containing the optics system and holding the removable test strip in position relative to the optics system;

an optics block holder mounted in the electronics printed circuit board in alignment with the alignment fixturing, the optics block holder aligning the test strip to the test pad and positioning the optics system to focus light from the light emitter and to the detector; and

a processor in communication with the light detector, the processor controlling the assay system such that test strips are assayed up to a predetermined expiration date.

13.   (New) The system of Claim 12, wherein the predetermined expiration date corresponds to a set of one or more test strips.